CALL TO ORDER: The 2021 Snohomish County Children’s Commission Meeting was held via ZOOM on Wednesday July 28, 2021. The meeting convened at 4:31 PM, Charlotte Zissel and Vice Chair Karen O’Meara Pullen presiding. Quorum met.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commissioners</th>
<th>County Staff</th>
<th>Guests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte Zissel</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Becky Megard ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karen O’Meara Pullen</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Nicole McMurray ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nancy Mickels</td>
<td>AB</td>
<td>Christie Lee Kamka ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitney Stohr</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Fischer</td>
<td>LOA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anita Shad</td>
<td>AB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerry Strieck</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desmond Pullen</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courtney Wooten</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argelia Grassfield</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karen McKeen</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lindee Tollefsen</td>
<td>EX</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronda Metcalf</td>
<td>AB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argelia Grassfield</td>
<td>✓</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Charlotte Zissel noted that the quorum had been met. She welcomed all and read the Mission Statement. Desmond Pullen read the Land Acknowledgement.

**Introductions**
Commissioners and guests introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**
No public comments

**Approval of Minutes**
Charlotte Zissel noted that there was no quorum at the June meeting. The May minutes were yet to be approved.

**ACTION ITEM:** Karen O’Meara Pullen made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2021 Snohomish County Children’s Commission meeting as written. Desmond Pullen seconded the motion. Motion Passed.
An amendment to the April 2021 Meeting Minutes was made. Charlotte Zissel explained that there were amended minutes due to Anita Shad being incorrectly marked as “On Leave of Absence” and the minutes were corrected to reflect her being “Absent.”

**ACTION ITEM**: Desmond Pullen made a motion to approve the amended minutes of the April 2021 meeting. Karen O’Meara Pullen seconded the motion. Motion Passed.

**Reappointment and Membership**

It was announced the Desmond Pullen’s reappointment has been confirmed by Snohomish County Council. Charlotte Zissel congratulated Desmond on his reappointment.

**Letter to the Editor**

The letter to the editor for the We Value Kids Recognition has been finalized and is on the way to the Everett Herald.

**County Updates**

- Fair tickets are available to all the Commissioners, and an email will be sent to all Commissioners. If you are interested in attending, please send a reply to Nicole with any updates to your mailing address as these will be sent out via US Mail.
- Commissioners are required to complete the Board and Commission trainings every two years for certification. Nicole McMurray will be emailing the Board and Commissioners the required training documents with instructions. Please email Nicole a confirmation that you have received and read through the documents and have completed the training.
- The County Council has approved ARPA funding. More decisions and information will be available in September.
- Karen Matson has asked if it would be helpful to have a panel presentation in September with all the different divisions within the Human Services Department to provide an overview of the services that the Human Services Department provides either directly or via subcontracts in the community to inform the commission of the programs that the Department manages and funds in the community.
  - The panel would consist of about ten attendees
  - The focus will be an overview of what is available through each service.
  - Karen Matson and Nicole McMurray will work together to schedule the panel
- Meetings will continue virtually due to the rise in Covid outbreaks

**Policy Recommendations**

- We need to build out our childcare and early learning systems due to the impact on business and economic development.
- 53.3% of children ages 3 and 4 are not in any early learning or preschool programs. Regionally and nationally, frameworks to support the development of universal preschools are emerging to address this need.
Whitney Stohr presented that Special Education Funding at the state level is chronically low due to an artificial cap on the amount of funding each district can receive. There is a push at the federal government to fully fund special education through IDEA Act (Federal Money). Removing or altering the cap on the special education dollars would have a huge impact on every district in the state.

**ACTION ITEM.** Please send any other recommendations to both Karen Matson and Nicole McMurray within the next four weeks. Include any recommendations that are related to the topics we have discussed this year such as early learning, housing, basic need support, equitable approaches, etc.

**Annual Report**

Nicole McMurray shared with the Commission a copy of the 2020 Kids Count Data Book.

Stylistic changes have been made to the report which include an update to the formatting, the Children’s Commission logo and Snohomish County logo and a breakdown of the median income

“Our Children of Color or any child for that matter in Snohomish county must not have to live in a world increasingly hostile to them because of the color of their skin” does not fit into the focus of Race-Based Violence.

- Recommendation to change from “Our children of color or any child for that matter” to “No child in Snohomish County”

**ACTION ITEM.** Courtney Wooten made a motion to approve the Annual Report with changes. Desmond Pullen seconded the motion. Motion Passed.

**ACTION ITEM.** Courtney Wooten made a motion for the Annual Report with changes to be sent to the County Council and the Executives Office. Whitney Stohr seconded the motion. Motion Passed.

**Committee Review**

The bylaws list the committees that will be talked about at the retreat in October. The bylaws will be looked at to make sure that the job descriptions for committees are accurate. This will be available at the executive committee meeting in September. If you would like to attend, a day and time for the meeting will be emailed out. Please reach out to Charlotte Zissel.

Charlotte Zissel’s term is up in September. A vote for a new Chair and Vice Chair will happen at the September meeting. Nominations for these positions are currently being accepted and the new members will take over at the retreat.

The October meeting is the SCCC Retreat.

**Commissioner Updates**

Argelia Grassfield spoke about the Homeless Policy Taskforce, which is a group of citizens and agency providers who meet each month to try to influence policies within the homeless system. The taskforce is partnering with a former CEO from Interfaith to conduct a series of public interviews on how homelessness has affected different systems they have worked with. This may be an opportunity to tell the story from the perspective of a child.
ACTION ITEM. Argelia Grassfield will send Karen Matson information regarding the focus of involvement/contribution by the Children’s Commission and will send Nicole McMurray a flyer with information on the interviews. County staff will distribute the information that Argelia sends.

Adjourn
Charlotte Zissel thanked everyone for attending.

ACTION ITEM. Karen O’Meara Pullen made a motion to adjourn the Snohomish County Children’s Commission meeting. Desmond Pullen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

MEETING ADJOURNED

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 5:45 P.M.

**The next Snohomish County Children’s Commission meeting will be held via ZOOM on Wednesday, September 29, 2021 from 4:30 to 6:30 PM.**